
A New Combination and a New Synonym in *Vigna* (Fabaceae: Phaseoleae) for the *Flora de Nicaragua*

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ABSTRACT. A survey of all available material demonstrates conclusively that *Phaseolus spectabilis* is clearly a *Vigna*, and thus the new combination *Vigna spectabilis* (Standley) A. Delgado is proposed. This species is placed next to *V. linearis* in the New World subgenus *Sigmoidotropis*, section *Caracallae*. In addition, *Phaseolus stenolobus* is reduced to the synonymy of *Vigna linearis* var. *latifolia* (Bentham) Maréchal.

While preparing treatments of *Phaseolus* L. and *Vigna* Savi for the *Flora de Nicaragua*, and as part of a monographic project involving *Vigna*, I have encountered several specimens that are identified as *Phaseolus spectabilis*, using Standley and Steyermark's (1946) *Flora of Guatemala*. Because this species lacks apomorphies diagnostic of *Phaseolus* (i.e., hooked hairs in its indumentum, inflorescences with unswollen nodes, a tightly coiled lateral keel) and has those diagnostic of New World species of *Vigna* subg. *Sigmoidotropis*, sect. *Caracallae* sensu Maréchal et al. (1978) (i.e., inflorescences with conspicuous swollen nodes, a loosely coiled keel, pods straight and compressed), the necessary new combination is made here.

Vigna spectabilis (Standley) A. Delgado, comb. nov. Basionym: *Phaseolus spectabilis* Standley, Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb. 17: 430, plate 25. 1914. TYPE: Guatemala. Alta Verapaz: vicinity of Secanquím, 550 m, 7 May 1905, *H. Pittier* 281 (holotype, US).

Along with the publication of *Phaseolus spectabilis*, Standley (1914) published the morphologically similar species *P. stenolobus*. This plant inhabits mainly montane forests from Mexico to Panama (occasionally also in South America), and may occur in localities next to the ones of *Vigna spectabilis*. The characters Standley used to distinguish these plants are that *P. stenolobus* has narrower calyx lobes and bracts, and a different pubescence on its leaflets. According to Maréchal et al. (1978), *Phaseolus stenolobus* may be recognized as *Vigna linearis* var. *latifolia*, a

poorly defined variety that is distinguished from the widespread typical variety by its broader leaflets. All evidence suggests that *P. stenolobus* cannot be kept specifically distinct, and its proposed synonymy is the following:

Vigna linearis var. ***latifolia*** (Bentham) Maréchal, Mascherpa & Stainier, Taxon 27: 202. 1978. *Phaseolus linearis* var. *latifolius* Bentham, in Martius, Fl. Bras. 15(1): 187. 1859. TYPE: Brazil. [Minas Gerais]: "Prov. Minarum," A. F. Regnell [78] (holotype, K not seen; phototype, NY).

Phaseolus stenolobus Standley, Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb. 17: 431. 1914. Syn. nov. TYPE: Guatemala. Santa Rosa: Cerro Redondo, 1500 m, Oct. 1983, J. D. Smith 6135 (holotype, US).

Vigna spectabilis is easily distinguished from *V. linearis* (including *P. stenolobus*) by its large foliaceous lateral and ventral calyx lobes (ca. 1.2 cm long, 3 mm wide), as opposed to the triangular and slightly falcate lobes (ca. 6 mm long, 1 mm wide) in *V. linearis*. It also differs by its blue or lavender flower (ca. 3 cm), with the keel incurved and loosely coiled distally (with coils ca. 8 mm diam.); this portion of the keel rotates in anthesis toward the front (facing the observer). In *V. linearis*, the flower is approximately 2 cm long, and its keel has two loosely coils about 4 mm in diameter, also with a rotation toward the front. Further, *V. spectabilis* has triporate pollen grains that are oblate, unlike the unique subprolate and biporate pollen of *V. linearis* (Stainier & Horvat, 1983).

Vigna spectabilis occurs in understory or grassy openings of evergreen, pine-oak, and pine forests or vegetation derived from these, in southern Mexico (Oaxaca, Chiapas), Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, ranging from 150 to 2000 m.

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